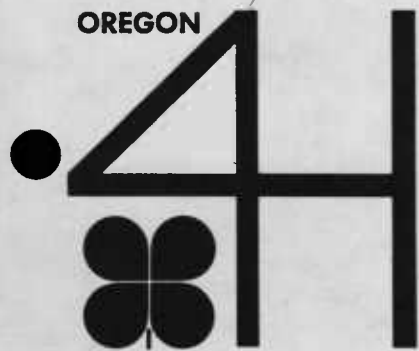


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Dog Obedience and Showmanship Training Guide



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When you and your dog have completed the Sub-Novice and Novice sections in this manual, you may request Part II from your club leader or County Extension Office.

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4-H seeks the participation of all youth regardless of
race, color, sex, or national origin.

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Introduction

The companionship and affection shared with your dog and the sense of responsibility for his welfare that ownership develops are deeply satisfying experiences for any boy or girl. By training your dog in obedience, you can develop even further what you now enjoy. You can add a new feeling of accomplishment and reward from what you and your trained dog can do together.

Dog's Age and Health

A primary consideration is the age and health of your dog. He should have his permanent shots before you start training. Puppy training (until 6 months) should be done with a stationary collar. Advanced age is itself no limitation, as many dogs over 10 years old have been trained very well. The major concern with older dogs is their general health. Those afflicted with arthritis or poor sight and hearing should not be forced to undergo training.

Vaccination for rabies is required by state law. Your dog should be vaccinated at five months of age and receive a booster shot every four years. He should also be vaccinated for distemper, hepatitis, and leptospirosis at 10 weeks of age and receive a booster shot every 12 to 18 months.

Basics of Training

Note: The method described in this bulletin is only one of several accepted methods that are suitable for young people.

Dog training is not a person working and a dog working—it is a person and a dog working as a team. To become and remain a team, you must concentrate completely on your work and you must get and keep the undivided attention of your dog. Do not talk to someone else while training. Do not be grim, but be businesslike.

There are several ways to keep your dog's attention. The first is to put his collar on properly close behind his ears. Talk to him or make a quick turn and jerk his leash when you suspect his attention has wandered. When he is heeling say "Good!" in a pleasant, confident voice. This is especially important in the first two or three classes. You may say your dog's name *once* just before a verbal command or before a verbal command and signal. You may not say his name and then give only a signal. Do not say his name in stay commands. Release your dog from training only from the sitting position at your heel.



Your dog at first may pull and tug so use a six-foot leather leash instead of a chain leash to avoid hurting your hands.



The training collar should be long enough to allow about two inches of chain to extend when it is taut. Control of the dog decreases when the chain extends farther. The thickness of the chain should be appropriate for the size of the dog.

Sub-Novice

Training should be a happy time for you and your dog. If you find you are losing your temper, stop everything until you are calm. Be patient. You may have to repeat a word of command many times before your dog begins to understand. In competition the judge gives penalties for commands he thinks are too loud.

Correction and praise are important. When your dog makes a mistake, correct him immediately while he can still associate the correction with the mistake. Praise every achievement immediately because your dog values your approval and praise is his only proof that he has it. But never reward your dog with treats because it may turn out that he will refuse to obey without them.

Keep a regular schedule. Work every day at the same time, but do not bore your dog with long lessons. Two 15-minute sessions a day are better than a 30-minute session. Footwork is important. Learn from your instructor to move your feet correctly before you begin to train your dog.



Put the training collar on your dog like this so that when you release the tension on the leash the collar will release the pressure on his neck. Your dog should never wear his training collar when he is not training because it can catch on something and strangle him. Attach his license and rabies vaccination tags to his leather collar.



In teaching your dog to heel, do three things at the same time: (1) Say your dog's name and "Heel." (2) Step forward with your left foot. (3) Jerk forward with the leash.

The Heel and Sit

When heeling, the dog should walk at your left side, his shoulder in line with your left hip. When you halt he is to sit squarely at your left, his shoulder still even with your knee.

Note To Leader: It is correct to hold the lead in either the right or left hand. The method used is leader's decision and members should follow leader's directions on hand in which to hold leash.

Teaching to Heel

Place your dog in the sitting position at your left, his collar on properly close behind his ears. Fold the leash neatly into your right hand and hold it about waist high. Let your left arm hang at your side and control the leash with your left hand. Jerk the leash sharply to keep control.

Upon your instructor's command "Forward," you should do three things:

1. Say your dog's name and "Heel" in a commanding voice, neither weak and pleading nor loud and harsh.

2. Step forward with your left foot.
3. Give a jerk with the leash (first week only).

It takes practice and concentration to do all three simultaneously. Do not be discouraged if you do not do it properly the first time.

As soon as your dog starts to move, encourage him with enthusiastic praise, saying "Good boy! Good boy!" Heel at a brisk pace.

If he will not move, do not drag him but jerk the leash repeatedly, saying his name and "Heel." As soon as he starts to move, praise him and keep him moving. If he forges ahead, jerk him back and say, "Heel." If he lags behind, jerk him forward. The jerk on the leash must come only a split second after you say, "Heel." If you jerk forward first and say heel a few seconds later, it will be much more difficult for the dog to learn.

Most handlers make the mistake of keeping the leash tight when teaching the dog to heel. The leash should be loose so the dog can make mistakes of lagging behind, forging ahead, or going wide. When he makes these mistakes, he learns through a jerk on the leash and when he



Always heel with a loose leash. Hold the leash in both hands, keeping your left hand ready to correct your dog with a jerk.



Always stop on your right foot and bring your left foot up to it. Your dog will learn to guide on your left leg.

is heeling close he learns that he receives praise. When the leash is kept tight all the time, he only learns to dislike the whole idea of training.

Slow, Normal, and Fast Heeling

In an obedience trial, you will be required to heel your dog at slow, normal, and fast pace. Upon the order from the instructor or judge, "Slow," heeling should quickly change to a definite slow pace that may be easily distinguished from the normal pace. When the order "Fast" is given, the handler and dog must break into a run. The dog should remain in the heel position.

Teaching the Sit

Upon your instructor's command, "Halt," you do not repeat the command but merely stop on your right foot, bringing your left foot alongside your right and give the command, "Sit." Quickly reach across your body with your right hand and grasp the leash about 12 inches from the training collar. Place your left hand on the dog's rump and

push down while pulling the leash taut and up with your right hand. Only pull the leash taut; otherwise, the dog will struggle against it. Be sure to pull it straight up. If you pull across your body, it will make the dog sit at an angle rather than straight.

Remember to praise him as soon as he sits.



Teach your dog to sit by doing three things at the same time: (1) Say "Sit." (2) Push his rump down with your left hand. (3) Pull the leash taut with your right hand. Be sure to pull straight up so he will learn to sit straight.



Don't forget the praise. Praise is just as important as correction.



To turn left, pivot on the ball of your left foot and bring your right foot around smoothly and close to the ground. If your dog fails to turn and your right foot touches him, say "Sorry boy," jerk the leash back, say his name and "Heel."



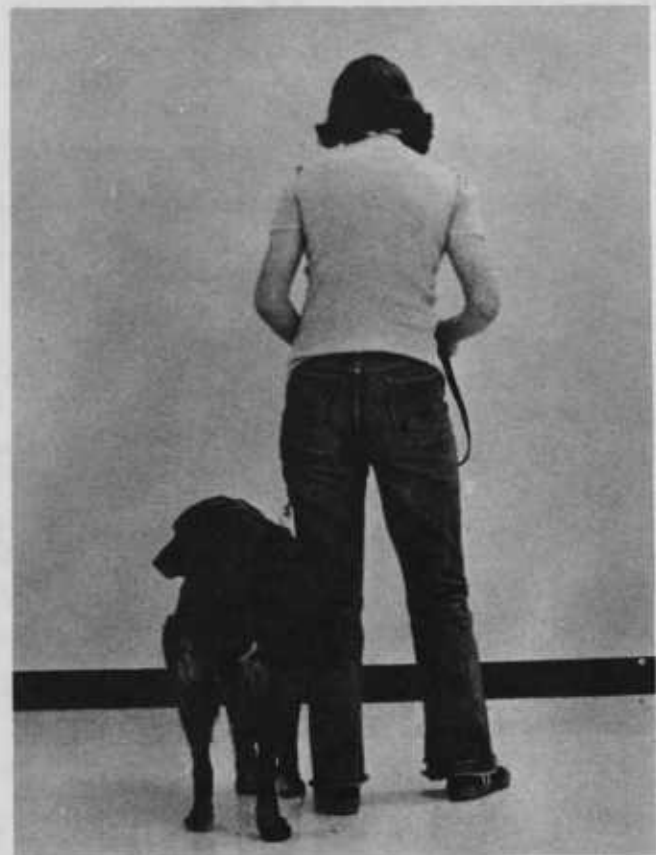
The right turn matches the left. Jerk on the leash and encourage your dog to keep him from lagging.



To turn around, hesitate on your left foot and shift your weight to your right . . .



. . . pivot to the right . . .



. . . and step off smartly on your left foot in the exact opposite direction. Make the left and right turns squarely and the about turn completely about so that you travel in straight lines. This makes it easier for the dog to learn and is more attractive at an obedience trial.

The Long Sit

The dog is to remain sitting for one minute.



To teach the long sit, hold the leash in your left hand, swing your right hand, palm open, in front of his nose and say "Stay." Be strict. Demand total obedience.



Step off smartly on your right foot and turn to face your dog. If he moves, return him instantly to his original position. Repeat the command to stay and step off. Go only two or three feet the first few times. This is especially important to an insecure or shy dog.



Return to the heel position by walking around the dog from his left side to his right. Keep the leash from dragging across his face.



After three or four days, extend the time you stand before him to one minute. Alternate practicing the long sit with the heel and sit and with turns to keep his interest and attention.

The Long Down

The dog is to remain in the down position for three minutes.

A medium to large dog may be placed in the down position as shown below. With your dog sitting in the heel position at your left, kneel beside him. Reach your left arm over his shoulders and grasp his left front leg in your left hand and his right front leg with your right hand. Lift his legs while hooking your left elbow in his flank causing his body to roll toward you and his legs to go out away from you. Then place your right hand, palm open and slightly above the dog's head and eyes and say, "Down."

When he is down, stroke him over the head and neck and help him to relax. Then give him the command, "Sit," giving several light jerks upward with the leash. Do the "Down" and "Sit" several times.

After he is down and seems relaxed, slowly get up giving the "Stay" hand signal as for the sit-stay and, stepping off with your right foot, move in front of him. If he has stayed down, step back to the end of the leash for a few moments and then return by walking around him to the right. The leash should pass to his left and not drag across his face. Do not allow him to sit when you return. The instructor will say, "Exercise finished" after you return to your dog. Although the exercise is finished you should say his name and "Heel." Take two steps forward and halt, order him to sit and then give him plenty of praise. This will make it clear to him that he should not sit when you return.

After he seems to have learned the down position, step back to the end of the leash and keep him in the down position for a minute or more. Within a week he should stay in the down position



Use this method of placing medium and large dogs in the down position.

for three minutes. If he moves, scold and quickly put him back in the down position.

The dog is learning that the word "Down" means to lie down. Do not use this word for anything else. If the dog jumps on the furniture or puts his muddy paws upon you, say "No." Never use the word down unless you want him to lie down.



Use this hand signal and say "Down" before and after placing your dog in the down position. He must learn to obey the hand signal and the voice command. You are not allowed to touch him or his collar in graduation or obedience trials.



After your dog is down, give the command and signal to stay. Step off on your right foot.



Your dog must remain down after you return to him until the judge says the exercise is finished. Then take two steps forward, place him in the sit and praise him.



Use this method to get a medium to large dog from the sitting position to the down position. Kneel at his right side and lift his right front leg in your right hand and then press down on his shoulders with your left hand.



Get a small dog into the down position either by folding his legs or pulling down on the training collar while pressing him down. Place your hand inside the training collar so that it does not choke him. Say "Down," your voice falling at the end of the word.



Dogs choose varieties of down positions, all of which are acceptable. They may move in the down position but must not creep or crawl.

The Stand for Examination

There are several ways of teaching your dog the Stand for Examination. Select the method that you think may work best with your dog and don't change.

Holding the Leash

At the start your dog should be heeling well enough for you to hold the leash in your left hand at your waist with your right hand free. This will also allow you to give the stay signals with your right hand without changing the leash to the other hand. In an obedience trial you may hold the leash in either or both hands; however, you will appear more natural to carry the leash in your left hand and allow your right hand to be free at your side.

The habit of holding the leash in your left hand may be especially useful to you when not in an obedience trial as your right hand will be free for opening doors, carrying packages, shaking hands,



To block your dog's vision, begin by walking him in the heel position. Drop your right hand in front of his eyes and say "Stand." When you are sure he is standing squarely on all four legs, give the voice and hand signal to "stay." Step off on your right foot and then turn to face your dog about two or three feet away. Return to the heel position by going around him. Return to him soon the first few times. It is better for him to succeed after a short time than to fail after a long time. Increase your distance to six feet.

and many other things we normally do with our right hand.

At an obedience trial the judge will require your dog to stand for examination. Upon the order, "Stand your dog," you may use any of the methods described. Take the time you need to get your dog standing squarely and when you think he will remain standing and stay for the examination, say "Stay" giving the hand signal (left picture below) and step in front of your dog. Stand facing your dog, holding his leash loose and clear of the floor. The exercise does not start until you say "Stay" and move away from your dog. If you say "Stay" a second time, you will be marked for a double command and lose points. The judge will approach your dog from the front; allow the dog to smell his hand and then touch the dog's head, back and hind quarters. He may also move his hand slowly down the dog's back and apply a slight pressure to make sure the dog is standing firm. Your dog should not move his feet. After the judge has finished the examination, he will step back and say, "Back to your dog." After you return to the Heel position, the judge will say "Exercise Finished." You should then say your dog's name and "Heel," take two steps forward and order him into the sitting position. Then give him praise.

Handling by a stranger may be difficult for your dog and will require some practice. Put your dog in a standing position and ask a friend to examine him.



To block your dog's hind leg, step a little to your right from the heel position. Hold the leash taut with your right hand and place your left hand against his hind leg. Say "Stand." Make sure he is standing squarely on all four legs, give the voice and hand signal to stay and then step in front of him.



Set your dog up by lifting him slightly off the ground, dropping him quickly into a standing position and saying "Stand." Then give the voice and hand signal to stay. This method is especially effective with short-legged dogs and dogs that tend to sit as soon as you move in front of them.

The dog's training to stand will also be useful when you groom him or when your veterinarian examines him. The dog must show no shyness nor resentment during the exercise.

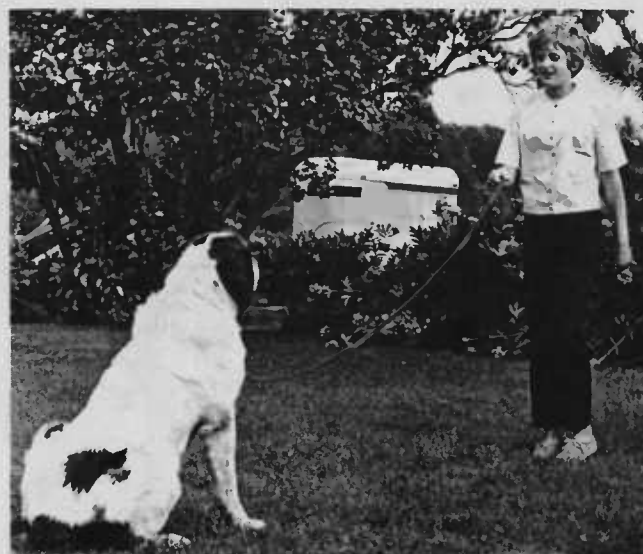


Hold the leash off the ground while the judge examines your dog. Your dog must remain off leash for examination in the novice class.

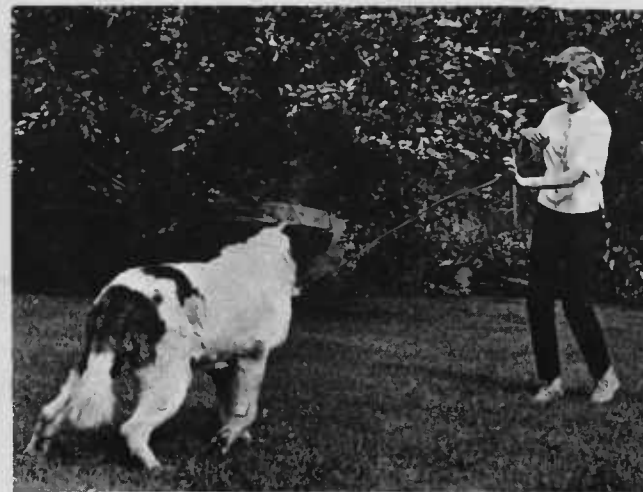
The Recall

The first part of the recall is to teach your dog to come when called.

Put your dog in the sitting position at your heel. Swing your left hand in front of his nose and say "Stay." Step away from the dog on your right foot, go to the end of the leash and face him. Say his name and "Come." Make it a happy call that will make him want to obey. As soon as he starts to move, run backward several steps gathering up the leash and guide him directly to your front within fingertip reach. He must not touch you nor sit between your feet. Give him the command to sit. If necessary, jerk up on the leash. It should not be necessary for you to reach over him and push down on his rump.



Say his name and "Come."



Run backward to encourage him to run. Gather in the leash as he approaches.



Guide him into a sitting position directly within reach in front of you. He must not touch you or sit between your feet.

When he is sitting squarely in front of you, praise him but do not pat him on the head or praise him so much that he jumps about. After he has sat properly and you have praised him, give the command and signal (right hand fingers pointed down) to "Stay." Go to your right, walking around the dog to the heel position. Then give plenty of praise.

Never scold or do anything unkind that he might associate with coming to you. He should *want* to come to you.

The second part of the recall is to move your dog from directly in front of you back to the heel position. There are two acceptable ways of teaching him.

Do not always use the same routine, otherwise he will anticipate your command and will get into the habit of walking up to you and going directly to the heel position. Sometimes when you are heeling, halt, have him sit as usual, command him to stay, step directly in front of him and return to his side instead of having him go to heel. This will also make it less boring for him.



You may send a large dog to your right. It may be awkward for him to make a small circle to your left.



Hold the leash about 12 inches from the neck for more control, say your dog's name and "Heel." Take a full step back on your right foot and guide your dog around your back to your right.



As your dog goes behind, step forward and change the leash from left to right hand behind your back.



Don't forget the praise.



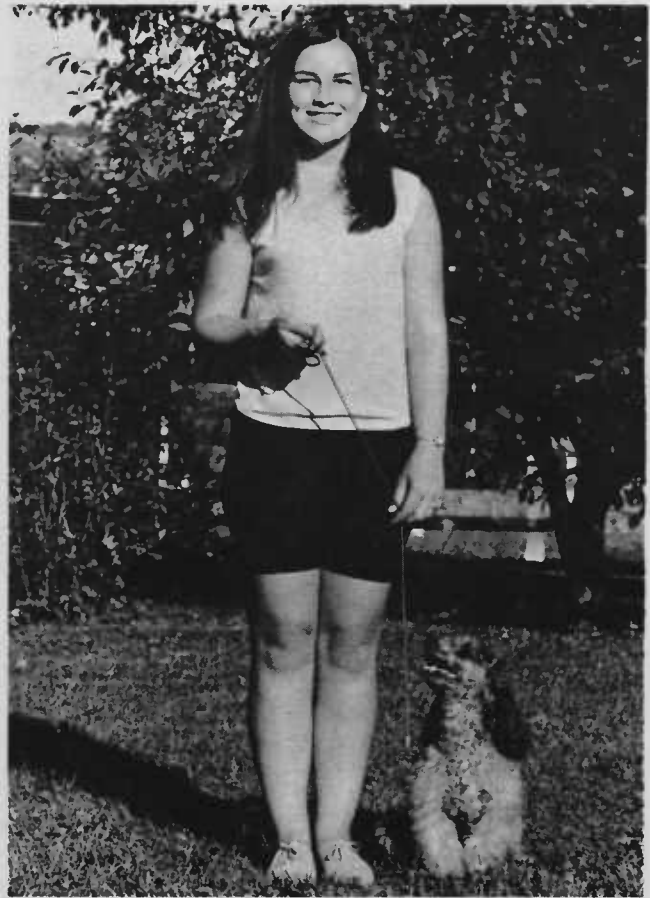
Guide him to your left heel and command him to sit.



You may send small and medium dogs to the left. The direction you send your dog is optional.



Hold the leash in your left hand about 12 inches from the neck, say your dog's name and "Heel." Take a short step back on your left foot and guide him with your hand on the leash through a counter-clockwise circle.



Prevent crooked sitting. Insist on straight sitting from the start.



As he makes the turn, bring your left foot forward again and guide him into a straight sitting position.

The Figure 8

The purpose of the figure 8 is to teach your dog to walk close to people, animals or objects without touching or sniffing. A dog substituting as an object receives training as valuable as that received by the dog making the figure 8. The figure 8 is a variation of heeling. Walk your dog around two objects or people about eight feet apart, making a figure 8 by crossing between them.



The Figure 8.

Start about two feet in front of the objects, one toward your left, and the other toward your right. Say your dog's name and "Heel" and guide him around one of the objects and then around the other, making a cross in the center as shown on page 13. Heel close to the objects and at a faster than normal rate to prevent lagging. In an obedience trial, the handler and dog go around the figure 8 twice with at least one halt during and another halt at the end of the exercise.

COMMANDS GIVEN BY THE INSTRUCTOR IN DOG OBEDIENCE TRAINING

The following list of commands may be helpful to a 4-H leader instructing 4-H members in dog obedience training:

The Heel and Sit. (Class forms a circle around instructor.)

Have your dog sitting squarely at your heel.
Forward.
Halt.
Exercise finished.
While heeling, the instructor will give the command, "Slow," "Normal," "Fast." Left Turn, Right Turn, About Turn.

The Long Sit. (Class forms a straight line in front of instructor.)

Prepare your dog for the long sit.
Sit your dog.
Leave your dog.
Back to your dog.
Exercise finished. (The dog is praised in the sitting position.)

The Long Down. (Class forms a straight line in front of instructor.)

Prepare your dog for the long down.
Down your dog.
Leave your dog.
Back to your dog.
Exercise finished. (The handler then says the dog's name and "Heel," takes two steps forward and puts the dog in the sitting position before praising.)

The Stand for Examination

Prepare your dog for the stand for examination.
Stand your dog. (Handler leaves the dog when satisfied he is standing firmly.)
Back to your dog.
Exercise finished. (Optional—The handler then moves the dog two steps forward before praising him.)
The instructor should examine each dog after the handler has left him in a standing position.

The Recall

Have your dog sitting squarely at your heel.
Leave your dog.
Call your dog. (He is to sit squarely in front of you.)
Finish. (Handler moves dog from in front to the heel position.)
Exercise finished. (Dog is in sitting position for praise.)

The Figure 8

Have your dog sitting squarely at your heel. The starting position is midway between two stewards, with you and your dog facing the judge.
Forward (Handler passes between stewards and turns either left or right.)
Halt.
Exercise finished.

Novice

The exercises for Novice are basically the same as for Sub Novice except that the recall, long sit,

long down, and stand for examination are done off leash. There is also a Heel Free exercise.



For the long sit off leash, place your dog in the sitting position and unsnap the leash. Step off on your right foot while giving the hand signal and voice command to stay. Stand only 10 or 15 feet away. If he starts to move, say "No." If he continues to move, rush back, return him to his original position and walk back to your standing place. Extend the distance to 40 feet as his confidence and your control increase. But if your dog persists in moving, put him back on the leash for a week.



The long down off leash is similar. Start by moving 20 feet away and gradually extend the distance to 40 feet.



To teach your dog the recall off leash, stand quietly about 15 feet in front of him for a few moments. Then call his name and "Come!" in a cheerful tone that makes your dog happy. Gradually extend the distance to 40 feet.



Your dog should sit directly in front of you within finger tip reach. He must not touch you nor sit between your feet.



Finish by saying your dog's name and "Heel" in a firm but pleasant tone.



Your dog may finish (return to heel) by going to either your right or left.



Train your dog not to forge ahead. Pivot on your left foot into a left turn. If your dog is too far ahead he will collide with your right leg.

The Heel Free

The heel free starts from the heel position. Unsnap the leash and have your dog sitting squarely at your heel. Upon the command, "Forward," from your instructor, step off on your left foot while saying the dog's name and "Heel." If he lags or heels wide, give him encouragement to heel by saying his name and repeating the command. If he bolts away, put him back on the leash immediately. Do not let him think you lack control over him because he is off the leash.

It is important that you show confidence in your dog when training but especially when he is doing exercises off leash. When you stop off to heel, give the command in a confident manner and step out briskly. Do not hesitate and look to see if he is keeping up or your dog will almost certainly lag behind and stop. Do the heel off leash for short periods of time; then place him back on leash for more heeling.



Before heeling your dog off leash, you may want to test him by hanging the leash around your neck.



Show confidence in your dog when he is off leash.

Most dogs will become bored at some level of training. In the 4-H program, your dog will probably receive the Sub Novice training the first year, Novice the second year, and so on. Spreading out the training will help prevent boredom, but it may still be a problem in Novice or Graduate Novice courses. Training only once or twice a week or stopping entirely for a week or two may help a dog that is obviously bored with training.

Time should be devoted to teaching the correct manner of conducting each exercise. You should stand and walk arrow straight and look straight ahead while doing the exercises. When doing the recall, do not move your head when calling your dog or give a second command with your shoulders and hips when you finish your dog. Using correct posture will take concentration especially when in competition. Execute the left and right turns and about turns sharply. Perform all the exercises in a pleasant but businesslike manner.



Walk faster if your dog lags. Talk to him encouragingly and praise him when he does well.

Showmanship

To train the dog for show, he must be trained in two completely different phases. First and most important he must stand and stay on loose lead and be sufficiently stable to allow a contest judge to make a complete examination of anatomical conformation, teeth, toenail care, and cleanliness and care of coat.

The second phase is to move or gait the dog in the correct speed or pace in accordance to the structure, or "breed of dog," you may be working with.

A basic recommendation is that a different lead and choke be used than that employed for obedience work, thus the dog relates between the two types of work. If the dog is used only in showmanship, the recommendation is still the use of the cloth nylon or rescoc lead and collar combined. Primarily, because it makes a smaller, better package to handle for small hands and makes no noise to distract the dog. However, the ordinary collar and lead may be used. When you show a dog he will be on your left, or to put it another way, you will be on his right or in front of him. At times you may find it necessary to work all the way around the dog.

With these thoughts in mind, let's start training by putting the collar on properly. Open the loop and put it over the head and bring it up behind the ears and tighten it until it is firm in position but not tight.

To train the dog to stand and stay in his normal stance you must have a mental picture in your mind of what that pose should be. The library has a variety of books showing dogs similar to yours in show pose or most magazine stores have monthly publications that are mostly pictures to copy.

Any training is by repetition of command and action and additional use of voice control. First, get the dog to "Stand-stay" as you are standing on his right side and facing him. Don't go beyond this point in training until the dog is stable in position.

With the lead in the right hand, reach over the dog with the left hand and run the hand down the left front leg. Talk gently to the dog and say "Stay." Repeat with the rear left leg, the right rear leg, all the time talking quietly and repeating commands of "Stand-stay." Then change the lead to the left hand and run the right hand down the right front leg. A *light* tug on the lead with the



To set left rear leg, hold lead in right hand and reach over your dog with left hand and set leg.

left hand straight up to bring the head up, as it has a natural tendency to come down as the legs are touched, then slightly stroke each side of the neck, then each side of the muzzle and back skull with the right hand.

Each session of training should be no more than 15 to 20 minutes in duration and when you have stabilized to this point, you are ready to make corrective moves, start to show the teeth, and get in front of your dog.

When it is necessary to move a front foot or change the position of a front leg at this stage of training, it is best accomplished by running the hand down to the elbow and closing the hand over the joint. The foot can be picked up and replaced and control can be best maintained, talking and commanding gently, "Stand-stay." The rear leg can best be handled in like manner, but just above the hock joint.

The anterior or front teeth can be shown by pulling back the lips. Place the hand over the muzzle just behind the nose with the thumb and fingers over the canines and gently pull back and up. This will show the "bite." The premolars may be shown by raising the flews on each side back to the corner of the mouth. Some dogs can be taught to "smile" and "open" and "show" their

teeth on command. The teeth should be shown quickly on the judge's request.

The tail is an important part of the finish of a dog and attention should always be brought to the correct set, posture, or lay of the tail and proper length and drop of feathering. In as much as each breed or type of dog has, in most cases, specific stipulations regarding the tail, the best source of information would be a breed standard reference book. With breeds that the tail is docked, it normally should stand up. Most long tails will just hang limp and natural. The left hand is used to make any correction, and in the case of Pointers, Setters, and a few others, the left hand holds the tail out in a continuation of the top line of the dog. Picture magazines will be a great help to show a variety of methods for good tail position. Having accomplished all this from the right side, as the judge is presumed to be looking at you from the dog's left side or center of the judging ring, you must now go to the front of the dog as the judge goes to look at the rear quarter. Bring the lead up over the head of the dog and pass the lead to the left hand, give a command "Stay" in a firm but not loud voice, and if necessary a hand signal with the right hand at the same time, and immediately step in front of your dog with the *right* foot first. For the first few lessons don't try to hold him very long until he is stable and will allow someone to walk behind him. When this level of training is reached you will begin to have someone touch the dog on the head, side of neck, the flank, and down a rear leg. Do this at the start and finish of each of the next few sessions after you have the dog properly posed and stable.

Now to go back to positions. As the judge looks at the rear he may go on around to the right of the



As the judge views your dog from the rear, pose the dog, holding lead in left hand and right hand under the chin.

dog. Caution the dog "Stay," leave on the right foot, and go to the left side of the dog. All of your work here is just opposite from the first lesson instructions. The hands are reversed but the same control movements apply. In other words, your left hand has lead control and your right hand does all the other corrective work. As the judge moves on past the front of the dog it is then necessary for you to go around the rear. Just let out enough lead for your move, but keep it just barely snug, your left hand about chest high with your elbow slightly bent. If the judge stops to look at the front, stop and stand relaxed, alert, and, if the dog is one that you would normally hold its tail out while posed, hold the tail with the right hand, standing at the end of the tail and facing the judge or towards the head of the dog. This part of the exercise takes a great deal of repeated training and should be introduced only after you are able to work both sides and the front and with a stranger watching as the judge. When the dog is fully trained to this position of the handler in the rear, a slow gentle tightening of the lead will cause him to lean into it a bit, then a little slackening of the lead and he will improve the picture of his angulation and shoulder set and usually improve the arch of neck and top line.

As you move on around to the right of the dog again, which puts you back to your original position, pass the lead back to the right hand and gather it up in short loops and again take your position of control.

Keep in mind this is showmanship of your dog and you. Every move you make should be planned and practiced as though you were models in a store window. You are expected to do a bit of acting in showing off the qualities of your dog.

Of course, it is expected you have walked your dog on lead and he is accustomed to some lead control. However, to move him on lead right beside you and at a controlled rate of speed might take some training to make him understand it's work you want and not play.

Considering the possibility that you may be starting with a rather young dog, you will start your gaiting at a moderate walk and increase speed in each lesson until a good fast trot is obtained in a fairly well controlled move. You must adjust the length and cadence of your step to maintain a good rhythm with your dog.

As a beginner handler it is a good idea to start each gaiting lesson with an exercise of basic position. The dog should stand at your left side, six to eight inches away from you and about a head length in front of you. Your left hand holding the

lead should be at a height just above your waist and directly over the dog's collar so the lead will be a straight line down from hand to dog. The left elbow should be bent so that the forearm will be near level with the top line of the dog. To move out as instructed by trainer or judge, it is best to start with the left foot and at the same time give a command of "Heel," "Let's go," or "Let's move." Move down and back about 40 feet and in early training do a right about turn at the far end. Each time you return and halt, leave the lead in the left hand, give a stand-stay command and signal with the right hand, if necessary, using the lead in the over head position as needed to keep head up.



When the judge approaches the dog from the rear, hold lead in left hand and steady dog with right hand.

You will reach conditional stability if you make sure the dog understands each successive part of the exercise. As you stop, face the dog about even with his head, but don't stop in front of him unless the judge goes to his left side. If the judge is looking at the dog's right side, caution the dog to stay, let out your lead, and back off toward the rear of the dog. This is only possible if you have properly trained the dog to come to a halt in a proper "Stand-stay" show position. You can possibly use the command to "Pose to show."

When you have reached this point in training and have satisfied yourself and your leader that the dog can progress, you are ready to add some refinements to complete a perfect picture.

A basic rule of showing in the ring is, never come between judge and dog. Add to that, always have complete control of your dog, never lose your composure, always know where the judge is, and be prepared for that casual glance back at your dog. Never quit showing until the final placement is made and you are dismissed by the judge. Always correct an error in foot placement or fitting

of the dog immediately or as soon as it does not interfere with the activities of the judge.

Now you can begin to learn some of the more difficult moves of handling and control.

You will find that after considerable amount of practice your dog will trot properly on a loose lead and stop, stand, and pose on command. And you have found there are times when you need to gait the dog on your right side.



In the move "down the ring" the dog is on your left side, with lead in your left hand.

The initial or basic move of changing hands on lead and changing direction is in the "down the ring and back" move. The move is as usual down the ring, the dog on the left side, lead in the left hand. As you get to the point of the about turn, you reach with the right hand and take the lead. At the same time you stop with the right foot forward, and as you do this you give a quick tug on the lead back and toward you, speaking the dog's name, and say heel or your chosen command, turn on the balls of *both* feet in a left about turn and

immediately step off with the *right* foot, getting it out of the way of the dog as he turns back towards the judge, gaiting on the right side.

There should be no hesitation or halt in this turn and the dog should always turn in towards you in order to get a straight start back. A great deal of practice is necessary on this in order to obtain a smooth flow of action. After you have mastered the move you will then enjoy the "ell"



"And coming back" the dog is on the right side and the lead is in your right hand.

pattern of down and left turn, going to the edge of the ring, then doing a left about, changing hands and back to the center, a *right* turn and back to the judge with the dog on the right side. Note that the right turn is controlled the same as the left turn here as the dog is on the inside of the turn. There is an alternative to the right turn in that as you turn you may pass the lead to the left hand and let the dog go past you and turn in a tight left circle, and as you step off he will be back on your left side and gaiting in his normal manner. There are many

variations of these moves and several techniques of lead handling. You can add to your knowledge of clever handling as your proficiency develops.

Keep in mind that besides the work of the dog, you as the handler must not look awkward or out of position or lost in the general continuity of the picture.

To stabilize the dog and adjust him to lead control with noise, confusion, and smells that tempt his taste, a good long walk in a shopping area around people and near moving traffic is desirable. The dog should always be under lead direction and you should talk to him in a calm voice while working. And last and very important, during this practice don't let *anyone* touch him. However, when you are working in simulated ring conditions after he knows his basic condition exercises, always have someone make a light touch examination.

If you have the opportunity to visit an AKC dog show you would find it to your advantage to watch a number of professional handlers for different methods of controlling and moving dogs in the ring. Keep in mind that in 4-H we do not teach or advocate harsh or forced corrective measures.

You should acquire a working understanding of canine anatomy. Know something about the history of the breed of dog or type of dog you are working with, and general knowledge of care and feeding. Develop that poise and courtesy in the ring that makes a winner.

To determine the general proper conformation of your dog or an idea of what his type should look like, it is suggested that you do some of your studies from a book of all dog breeds, or a dog encyclopedia. Most libraries have a good selection of general breed books and some of special classifications.

Reference

A copy of the Obedience Regulations by the American Kennel Club, 51 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10010, is available without charge on individual request or for 15¢ per copy in group quantity. A thorough knowledge of these rules will be helpful to anyone who is training a dog for competition.

For further references see 4-H Dog Leaders Guide.